

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00801 181036Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----040795 181039Z /21
R 180700Z JAN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6802

S E C R E T MOSCOW 0801

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, UR, US
SUBJECT: PNG OF DONALD KURSCH

REF: A. STATE 11051; B. MOSCOW 0753

1. ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR SKOUG EXPECTS THAT NEXT REGULAR BUSINESS FACILITATION MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE MANZHULO MAY BE SCHEDULED IN NEAR FUTURE. SINCE THESE MEETINGS ARE USUALLY SCHEDULED BY MANZHULO WITH LITTLE PRIOR NOTICE, REQUEST PRIOR APPROVAL TO READ PROTEST OF KURSCH PNG AT NEXT MEETING IF RPT IF KURSCH SHOULD BE EXPELLED BEFORE MEETING OCCURS. SUGGESTED TEXT FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN DRAFT TEXT:

MY GOVERNMENT STRONGLY PROTESTS THE ENTIRELY UNWARRANTED ACTION OF THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN DECLARING DONALD KURSCH, A FIRST SECRETARY OF EMBASSY AND AN OFFICIAL OF THE U.S. COMMERCIAL OFFICE, PERSONA NON GRATA.

MR. KURSCH DID ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WRONG. THE
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MINISTRY'S DEMARCHE OFFERED NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER OF IMPROPER BEHAVIOR. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ACTION HAS EQUATED A VALUABLE OFFICER AND DIPLOMAT DOING IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL WORK WITH A LOW-RANKING SOVIET EMBASSY NON-DIPLOMAT, MR. AVDYUNIN, WHO ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE, THE EVIDENCE OF WHICH WAS PROVIDED IN DETAIL TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.

THE ATTENTION OF THE SOVIET CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN WASHINGTON WAS INVITED ON JANUARY 7 TO THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONVEYED STRONG ORAL MESSAGES IN 1972 AND 1973 THAT COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN BOTH CAPITALS THEN BEING ESTABLISHED MUST NOT BE USED FOR INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES. OUR OFFICE HAS ABIDED BY THIS CODE. THE ACTIVITIES OF MR. AVDYUNIN, ON THE OTHER HAND, CLEARLY VIOLATED THE UNDERSTANDING.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, OUR COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN MOSCOW, WHICH IS THE EQUIVALENT OF YOUR TRADE REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON, IS PRESENTLY STAFFED BY FOUR OFFICERS AND TWO AMERICAN STAFF PERSONNEL. THE LOSS OF MR. KURSCH SERIOUSLY IMPAIRS THE FUNCTION OF THE OFFICE AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR COMMERCIAL PROGRAM IN THE SOVIET UNION. IT IS ALSO A NEW AND NEEDLESS OBSTACLE TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR TRADE RELATIONS. FINALLY, IT IS TOTALLY OUT OF CHARACTER WITH THE ATTEMPTS WE HAVE BEEN MAKING HERE AND IN WASHINGTON TO PUT OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP ON A BETTER BASIS. END DRAFT TEXT.

3. PLEASE ADVISE.

MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EXPULSIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: SECRET
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
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SAS ID: 3755978
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PNG OF DONALD KURSCH
TAGS: PINT, UR, US, (KURSCH, DONALK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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